

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN CINDY YOUNKIN**, on April 2, 2001 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Cindy Younkin, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Rick Dale, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Gail Gutsche, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Keith Bales (R)  
Rep. Rod Bitney (R)  
Rep. Dee Brown (R)  
Rep. Gilda Clancy (R)  
Rep. Aubyn A. Curtiss (R)  
Rep. Larry Cyr (D)  
Rep. Ron Erickson (D)  
Rep. Christopher Harris (D)  
Rep. Linda Holden (R)  
Rep. Joan Hurdle (D)  
Rep. Rick Laible (R)  
Rep. Bob Story (R)  
Rep. Brett Tramelli (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Bill Eggers (D)  
Rep. Jeff Laszloffy (R)  
Rep. Douglas Mood (R)  
Rep. David Wanzenried (D)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Holly Jordan, Committee Secretary  
Larry Mitchell, Legislative Branch

**Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: SJ 3, 3/23/2001  
Executive Action:

HEARING ON SJ 3

Sponsor: SEN. BEA MCCARTHY, SD 29, Anaconda

Proponents: Gail Abercrombie, MT Petroleum Association

Opponents: Anne Hedges, MEIC  
Don Allen, WETA  
Janet Ellis, MT Audubon  
John Wilson, Trout Unlimited

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

*{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0.4}*

SEN. BEA MCCARTHY, SD 29, Anaconda, stated, SJ 3 comes from an interim subcommittee. Considering the work that the legislature has done with the seven bills on MEPA she recommended that the committee table SJ 3.

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony:

*{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 2.3}*

Anne Hedges, MEIC, stated, the committee should look at the alternatives analysis. When somebody gives a proposal for Montana it is either given a thumbs up or a thumbs down. That is the only thing worth studying.

Don Allen, WETA, stated, it would be worthwhile, at the end of the interim, for DEQ to report on how the changes to MEPA, brought forward during this session, have worked. DEQ can pass on that themselves as it is a policy decision. He concurred with the sponsor's request to table.

Janet Ellis, MT Audubon, concurred with the above statements.

John Wilson, Trout Unlimited, stated that he went through the green MEPA book to see if the recommendations from the last study have been being followed. Sixteen of the recommendations were not implemented, two of them were implemented, eleven were state agency things that could be implemented and the three bills that will pass the legislature were not even part of the recommendation. It is not a good expenditure of money to get these recommendations.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None.

**Closing by Sponsor:**

***{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 6}***

**SEN. MCCARTHY** stated, it has not been an easy decision to table this bill. The green MEPA book was 18 months worth of study which probably cost \$100,000 or more as well as hours and hours of staff, committee and travel time. MEPA has taken a different turn during this legislative session. It still needs to be monitored and EQC is committed to do that. She stated, we will ask an EQC council to put this on our list of things to do but we just will not do the full blown hearing. She asked for a concurrence of that.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 3**

***{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 7.2}***

**Motion:** REP. DALE moved that SJ 3 DO PASS.

**Motion/Vote:** REP. ERICKSON moved that SJ 3 BE TABLED. Motion carried 19-1 with Harris voting no.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 3:15 P.M.

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REP. CINDY YOUNKIN, Chairman

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HOLLY JORDAN, Secretary

CY/HJ

**EXHIBIT (nah74aad)**